

The Decision:

A Multi-Media Performance Piece on Sustainability

written and performed by Theater of the Oppressed, Flushing High School 2012

Show Order:

LIVE	1. The Decision	(movie opener and voiceover, titles)
FILM	2. S.O.S.	(hurricane monologue, missing sister)
FILM	3. One Less Family	(earthquake and pregnancy)
MIXED	4. The Interrogation	(drugs and earthquake)
LIVE	5. World Hunger Games	(parents, children, drought)
FILM	6. Where Are You?	(refugee camp and drought)
FILM	7. Wave of Destruction	(tsunami monologues)
LIVE	8. The Final Decision	(movie closing, cliffhanger)

CAST AND CREW LIST:

SCENE 1: Gabriela Lara, Julian Perez

SCENE 2: Bria Burnett, Sabiana Calixte, Nakiya Cooper, Kiondre Medard, Zakiyra Ross

SCENE 3: Emily Casas, Gleny Collado, Princess Decano, Melissa Diaz, Nedalee Guerrero, Michael Lopez-Castillo, Florencia Moline,

SCENE 4: Luis Colon, Gilberto Lopez, Corey Vega

SCENE 5: Deisy Buestan, Maria Jaya, Alexandra Lema, Daisy Ochoa, Julian Perez

SCENE 6: Tara Arshad, Asiya Banu, Alexandra Sancho, Luciano Wolf

SCENE 7: Faye Fichera, Maria Saccente

SCENE 8: Gabriela Lara, Julian Perez

SCENE 1: LIVE
The Decision

(lights up on an office, man pacing excitedly with newspaper in hand, speaks to himself)

A: *(Reading a review)* With moving character work, a dynamic story and a distinct style, the film, which has already made 60 million at the box office, is sure to make some noise in its DVD release. Perez Productions might be relative newcomers to the scene, but learn that name. They're going to be the ones to watch. I, for one, can't wait to see what they come up with next.

(man throws the newspaper in the air and dances)

The ones to watch! 60 at the box office! Learn that name! Learn that name!

(knock at the door)

Come in.

(woman walks into the office carrying a clipboard and a large manuscript)

B: What's up? You got a minute?

A: For you I got five. Did you see this review? *(waves newspaper)*

B: That's actually what I want to talk to you about.

A: The ones to watch! Learn that name! We're going to be rich!

B: I know. That's why I need to talk to you. Remember we always talked about how once we made it big we were going to use our success to do something good for the world?

A: Um... yeah... I guess so....

B: Well, I found the perfect way to do it.

A: Um... ok...

(GABRIELA'S LINE HERE)

A: What? How is this possible? How have we not heard about this before?

C: These stories don't make the news.

A: Why not?

C: Because these are not the stories the media wants you to hear.

B: What do you mean?

ETC.

SCENE 2: FILM
S.O.S.

(SCENE about FINDING GIRL--> photo montage of hurricane disasters with voiceover)

S: Don't you think we should search this place enough? Let's move on to the next section.

K: No I want to search the area one more time. I feel like there is still more survivors

S: Wait I hear somebody crying. It's coming from this way.

S: Are you ok? Where are your parents?

Z: *Crying* I'm lonely and I don't know what to do. I lost my sister and I can't find her.

K: What happened?

Z: This big storm came and washed away everything. My house got destroyed and my sister is no were to be found. I'm lonely I have no food, and no family.

S: Don't worry I have shelter, food, water and everything you need to survive.

Z: Thank you so much! ... But wait, what about my sister?

K: Where did you last see her?

Z: She was with me playing dolls. Next thing you know our house started to shake the lights where flicking on and off. We were holding hands I don't know how I lost her. Next thing you know she was gone right along with our house.

(Starts to cry)

Z: Please find my sister I need her. She's the only thing I have in my life and I can't lose her.

(fade into monologue)

MONOLOGUE: Debris everywhere! Everything's in pieces. It's been 3 months since the storm and the government has yet to help. This was my dream home and now it's a nightmare. I'm not even sure if I have insurance to cover all these damages! But I'm grateful that I am alive and safe. I'm worried about my best friend that lives in the poverty stricken part of town. If my home looks like this imagine what theirs looks like! This is stressing me out. Just wind and rain came. How can wind and rain do this much damage? I am still in shock! How dare this hurricane come and destroy what I worked so hard to achieve! Why me?! Everything's in pieces and shambles. I'm trying so hard to think positive but I just can't. I'm just praying for the best! I can't believe this, this is not my dream! This is just not fair! OMG, my best friend.....

SCENE 3: FILM

One Less Family

(Images of earthquake disasters; following dialogue is a voiceover)

MICHAEL: Dinner's ready. Sweetheart, don't jump. (G & MS are on the table. E jumping on the side)

EMILY: (jump roping) Strawberry shortcake, cream on top. Tell me the name of your sweetheart: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H..

FLORENCIA: (enters from RIGHT) What are we having, dad?

GLENY: Dad said no jumping!

MELISSA: Go play with the dog. Come on, everyone, let's eat!

(N enters from LEFT)

EMILY: I can't find Molly! (bangs on table, then calls out) Here, Molly! Here, girl!

PRINCESS: (Rubs back) Oh, god.

(~trembling starts to happen~)

GLENY: I SAID NO JUMPING!!

EMILY: (whines) That's not me!! (everyone looks around)

NEDALEE: Dad, what's going on?! (holds on table)

MICHAEL: EARTHQUAKE! EVERYONE OUTSIDE!

PRINCESS: OMG. DAD! ... It broke!!!

MICHAEL: Yes, everything's breaking. Now get---

PRINCESS: No, my water!! It broke (gets contractions) DAD!! ... Ahhhhhh!

FADE TO BLACK, FADE IN:

MONOLOGUE: I don't feel safe anymore, not since the day the earth parted like the red sea and roots tore from the ground. The kitchen floor shook and I lost my balance as I felt the wood creak. I was afraid when I heard my parents scream with just as much fear in their voices as mine. I was little, then, just a baby. Warm tears scurried down my cheeks. I remember crying out for my dog Molly. I realized she wasn't coming. She was lost in the commotion. She was my best friend. I sobbed as we ran down the street and watched the houses on our block topple over each other like waves. I miss my room and the smell of vanilla candles that clung in the air. I miss my soft pillows and warm bed. If only mother nature would've have given us a break. Maybe then I could bring back the smiles that were lost and the lives that were taken. I could replace the disillusioned faces and bring joy back to my family's heart. Unfortunately, I can't. That's just the way things turned out. All I can do now is pray this life gets easier and wish life

didn't treat us so harshly.

SCENE 4: MIXED MEDIA

The Interrogation

(lights up on a man sitting on a chair, obviously agitated)

JOHN: We helped a lot of people, alright? I may not be proud of everything I did down there, but these people had nothing. This was the only way they could afford to live after that earthquake.

(pause)

JOHN: You don't know what it's like out there. You want to know what we went through? You want to know how I got here? (sarcastic) You sure we've got time for that?

(pause)

JOHN: Fine. That day? That day we were sitting in a hut, me, my fellow Marine, and the Venezuelan drug lord...

(CUT TO FILM: at a table, in a hut, in a jungle)

Taylor: I'm tired of this.

John: Of what?

Taylor: Of hiding in this rotten smelling hut, hiding from Marines who, by the way, are our comrades.

John: It's only for a while, calm down.

Taylor: I mean how ?

John: How did what?

Taylor: How did we get here?

Luis: By planes, how else?

Taylor: No, I mean right here, right now. How did we get here? How did we go from Marine Rescue Corps to drug dealers?

Luis: I'm the drug dealer here. Well, I moved up, you see, about a year ago when the earthquake hit. There was a young coke dealer, a novice. When the village was turned into dirt and rubble, a ghost land, I helped out. I donated money to the local church where there's a lot of refugees.

John: That's it? You donated money to the church, so the church gave you control of the whole

neighborhood?

Luis: No, I worked more and more, with new cartels whose weaknesses I learned and used against them. I helped build houses in the neighborhood, bought them food, clothes, and wallah, I became one of the most infamous and most loved-hated cartel in Colombia.

Taylor : And then we came.

John: That's another story. Blood and gore for money and power.

Luis: (cuts John off) Well, I need to go pack my bags and gather my men. (Luis goes into another room)

Taylor: Eight long years in training for this?

John: For what? You can't complain.

Taylor : Well, I don't know if it's hell or glory.

John : You're right, it's both. But if we decide to join the mafia together, then we die in it together.

Taylor: Die?

Luis: (from another room) Die?! With my guerrilla, impossible.

Taylor: We weren't sent here to do this.

John: You're right, we weren't. I remember why, though.

Taylor: What a surprise.

John: We came to help, deployed only one day after the devastating earthquake.

Taylor: Magnitude 7.3.

John: And as we flew over what is now dust, it got me wondering, 'Why did they equip us with guns?' What were we gonna do? Wrap the kids up in explosives? And the victims didn't get any special treatment. If he or she was caught in rubble under a broke down house, they kicked them.

Taylor: In the head until pleaded they no more, and the soldiers laughed.

John: We laughed. Then we learned we weren't sent here just to help them. Our mission was to hunt down the drug lord because he was intervening. He was giving the people what others weren't giving them.

Taylor: Sure. Did he do damage? Yeah. He killed at least 20 innocent families, but that's less than what the government officials killed and more than what the government has given them.

(silence)

John : Well, in a few minutes our old comrades are coming to "save us".

Taylor: Wait until they see the surprise.

John : We can't be too sudden or else all that worked for will be in jeopardy.

Taylor :But we have more power than them.

John: They have the government and we have the guerrilla.

Taylor: But we are part of the government, and we have the guerrillas.

John: This is too confusing. For now we'll have to welcome our partners with open arms and try our best to not blow our cover of our involvement in the cocaine deals **(remains in the hut but goes into another room)**

Taylor: What are we to do if we were to get caught by our fellow marine members? Am I willing to go back and serve the U.S.? I have a carefree life here of free narcotics , I'm given no orders but to patrol. But I made a promise to my wife and my country.

(CUT TO JOHN SITTING IN CHAIR ON STAGE)

John: At that point we had two transactions on; exchange coke for marijuana in Mexico, and a straight up investment for coke in Venezuela. I put that one on hold. The rest of our unit was coming and I didn't want them to know we became a part of what we originally came to end. In time they'd understand. It was a lot of money. Who was I to deny the offer? Putting down my country was the last thing on my mind, but I had my family to think about...

(CUT BACK TO FILM)

Luis: **(walks into the room)** Well, my bags are packed. I'm outta here; don't want this whole operation to go to waste.

John: Are you actually scared that we'll get caught, or scared for yourself?

Lewis: Scared for myself? Listen, even if we happen to get caught, I know people that can get me out of this. Just remember I just gave you guys some of my power.

Taylor :Fine, leave. You gave us everything we need.

(Luis leaves, sound effect of a Hummer driving away. Taylor and John sit down for a cup of coffee)

Taylor: I think I want to do the right thing.

John : What do you mean?

Taylor: I want to turn myself in.

John: No, you can't. We have too many transactions going on, too much power.

Taylor: Screw the power!

(helicopters are heard, Taylor and John run outside, John waves his hands)

John: I'm sorry.

(shots are heard, cut to STAGE)

JOHN: Don't you see, he was going to tell them. It wasn't supposed to happen that way. He didn't have to die. If only he'd kept his mouth shut...if only...I'm not a bad person! It wasn't my fault! Things just got out of hand. If you were there...the people had nothing, do you hear me, nothing! This was their only chance to survive. What are they going to do without us?

SCENE 5: LIVE World Hunger Games

Father: Our portions of food are unbearably low, nobody could be considered fed with this food...

Mother: ...not even if it was used to feed a single person.

Father: Yet we have to split this food between the five of us.

Mother: Well, the children need the food. They don't deserve this life.

Father: So it'll go to them.

Mother: But, what about you? Us...

Father: Oh, what future do we have for us? Even if we live, who will care for us when there is no more, the children, however...

Mother: The children have a chance...we could die and someone could take care of our children and give them a home.

Father: Even the sickest children, like...

(Small fight sounding off in the distance)

Alysia: Give me it! I found it.

Holly: Well it's mine, now.

Alysia: Give me that food now!

Holly: No! I'm starving.

Alysia: At least share it; don't be so greedy.

Holly: So go find yourself...

Mother: What's going on over here?! Your poor sister is sick, and weak...she needs to sleep. Would it kill you to respect that?!

(Father comes in and takes the food they'd been fighting for and stares in disbelief)

Mother: You two were fighting for that? That bread is old and stale!

Both Alysia and Holly: But we're starving.

(Mother comforts children, as father goes off to get the food to feed them, shortly after the mother embraces her children, and then the father returns with food.)

Father: *Moving quickly goes straight to giving a small ration of food to Holly

Holly- But father, what about you? This is the fifth day you skipped food.

Father: Don't worry about your old daddy here, I've lived my life.

****Moves on towards Alysia***

Alysia: But daddy, whatever happened to the food from the relief trucks? We always had food for the five of us.

Father: Those trucks of the past only live in our memories now, its not the same anymore. Everyone else fights for food, they rob, kill, and hurt each other for it. I don't ever want you two fighting for food again!

****Mother leaves and brings Hannah into the room to join Holly and Alysia. Walking towards father afterwards.***

****Hannah wakes up, rubbing eye, walking slowly, tired.***

Hannah: Mommy? Daddy?

Father: Oh my, Hannah is so...so fragile...

Mother: She can barely walk...

Father: We can't keep her.

Mother: So what do we do? Are you suggesting that we leave her like a stray, or kill her?!

Father: No! I know this guy, he could take her, we'll get \$5 dollars a month and they'll take care of her.

Mother: But how can you know it's true? ***(Slightly considering the option)***

Father: Sadly, we don't. But it's the only way to assure the survival of us all.

(Mother looks deeply ahead, through the infinite depths of space.)

Father: She doesn't have much going for her here, we'd...

Mother: We'll do it, now go on put the kids to sleep, its getting late.

SCENE 6: FILM
Where Are You?

(Two sisters are wandering in a drought-ridden area)

Asiya: I don't know where we are. I'm so tired of walking.

T: Don't give up. We have to keep going. We have to get to the camp.

A: We've been walking for hours! Why did we have to leave? Mom will never find us now.

T: That's why we have to find her.

A: I want mom! Why did she leave us?

T: There was no food, no water. All our crops dried up. She left to find work...to feed us.

A: But why didn't she come back?

T: She got swept up into a camp. They wouldn't let her leave. We couldn't stay home. There was nothing left. They made us evacuate.

A: I don't want to walk anymore. I'm tired. I just have to rest.

(A sits down to rest)

T: Stop this! Get up! You saw what happened to the other people who sat down to rest. We left them. We left them in the middle of the desert! Get up! I'm not going to leave you here to die.

A: But I'm so tired...

T: Get up! Look! What's that? I see...I see some people there! A fence!

A: Barbed wires and garbage are all over ... It looks dirty over there.

Tara: Come on! Let's just go! It has to be the camp. It just has to be.

(ad lib T and A wanting to get in. L checks the list, tells them to move on)

T: Come on, let's go with the others.

A: I can't walk anymore.

T: Let's go!

A: No! I...I think mom's in there.

(T and A talk to guard, trying to get in again. Luciano says no, Alex tries to convince him)

T: Please? There are just two of us. The others have gone.

Alex: (to Luciano) We should let them go in. They are trying to find their mom. Who cares if their name isn't on the list? She's right, there are just two of them.

A: I want mom!

T: (to guards) We don't eat much. We won't cause trouble! We're just looking for our mother...look at her, she won't last in the desert much longer.

(Luciano says something here)

T: (to guards) If you won't take me, at least take my sister! I can catch up with the others...

A: (to T) No! You're not leaving me here!

T: (to A) It will be okay...

Alex: (to L) Maybe they are supposed to be on the list. There are too many people here...names get mixed up sometimes. They're all by themselves! (hands girls food) Here, take this.

T: Thank you!

Alex: (to Luciano) What do you think?

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7: FILM

Wave of Destruction

MONOLOGUE 1: It has been one year but feels like yesterday. It was a bright summer day and my mother was preparing dinner. My mother had forgotten to buy eggs. She sent me to the store and on the way there I was just so happy. The smell of my mother's food lingered in my nose. I couldn't wait to eat dinner on the balcony and stare at the ocean in front of us. I was paying for the eggs when I heard screaming coming from outside the store. I left in a hurry watching people running from the wave. All I could think of was I have to save my mother. I started running towards my home, but a man stopped me. He was trying to pull me away and save me but I fought back. I fought back to save my mother, but it was too late. The tsunami took my home apart. I screamed for my mother, calling her name. I was too late, I turned around

and the tsunami hit me hard. When I woke up nurses, workers and neighbors were attending injured survivors and carrying dead bodies. For five days I fell in and out of consciousness. After a week, I was able to get up on my own. I looked for my mother. I knew she was dead, but I couldn't believe it. I had no one left to love. Sometimes I can still smell her cooking. I loved the feeling I got when she smiled at me, I would do anything to see it again. I miss my mother, our home and I miss having a healthy heart.

MONOLOGUE 2: I had just gotten married. I was so happy to start my new life with my soulmate. We had a beautiful house built. When we first moved in, I felt completely happy just looking at my husband's smile. The new paint smell, the freshness in the air, the smell of the ocean coming through the trees. I was home. This is my home. My husband is my home. After getting settled, I started cooking again. We were so tired of take out. I was making my husband's favorite, spaghetti and meatballs. I was stirring the sauce and my husband held me and kissed me. We danced around the kitchen, happier than ever. The world was in the palm of my hands. That afternoon my husband went to walk the dog down by the beach. I kissed him and told him to be home before dinner. Everything was still cooking so I decided to sit on the porch and enjoy the beautiful day. I closed my eyes and when I opened them I saw the wave hitting the beach. All I could think about was my husband. I ran toward the beach. I was crying my eyes out. I could barely breathe. Someone grabbed me. I never made it to the beach. That person saved my life, but I was unable to save my husband. That tsunami took away my heart. Mother nature took away the spark in my eyes. When I got to the shelter, they were serving spaghetti and meatballs. I could smell it the minute I walked in. I couldn't eat any, I couldn't even look at it. I just couldn't bare it. The smell lingered as I held my stomach and realized all I had left in this world to go on was our baby.

SCENE 8: LIVE

The Final Decision

A: Wow, well...I didn't realize.

B: Of course you didn't realize! That's the problem! No one really understands the consequences of climate change...so many of these things are preventable.

A: Yeah, but a film? Who would watch it? Our trailer's going to look like one of those infomercials asking for money for some sick kid.

B: (Angrily begins to shout) DON'T TELL ME THAT AFTER HEARING ALL OF THAT YOU HAVEN'T CON...

A: No! No! No!! This could really help some people, I'm just not sure...

B: (Smiling) Come on, the ones to watch? Learn that name? We will be the ones to change the world, just watch.

END SHOW

